(e) the persons against whom the CBI enquiry has been conducted; and

(f) the action taken against guilty officers/employees?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) The number of cases of theft of various products of Bokaro Steel Plant detected during each of the last three years is as under:

Year	No.of cases
1994	08
1995	14
1996	04

Bokaro Steel Plant did not suffer any loss on account of these thefts as all the stolen materials were recovered.

(c) and (d) All the cases detected, were investigated by local police and sent to the Courts for trial. Departmental enquiry was conducted against one employee who was alleged to have been involved in a theft case.

(e) No enquiry was conducted by CBI for these theft cases.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RITA VERMA: Mr. Speaker? Sir, due to paucity of time, I would like to raise a pointed question. It can be said about the reply given by the hon. Minister that.

[*English*]

It conceals more than it reveals.

[*Translation*]

Sir, for the last two and a half year CBI inquiry is going on in the cases of theft in Bokaro Steel Plant. During the CBI inquiry witnesses had given sensational statements and mentioned the names of high officials and political leaders under whose protection theft took place. The material of several truck loads was stolen there. I do not know that under whose pressure now this inquqiry is going on at snail pace, some allegations were also levelled against the former Chairman of SAIL. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will issue instructions to SAIL to cooperate with the CBI so that enquiry may be completed and the guilty persons at earliest be if a political leader or high officers should be punished, so that theft cases and the loss being incurred to Bokaro Steel Plant could be checked and people may have some fear of the law.

[*English*]

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, in 1993, a case was detected by the management, with the help of the village people, about the theft in the Bokaro Steel Plant. The management filed an FIR with the local police. Then, the Bihar Government instructed an inquiry by CBI and accordingly, the CBI inquiry is going on. The CBI has submitted its report and the case is going on at Dhanbad. There is no compromise effort about the CBI inquiry and the question of SAIL not cooperating with the CBI does not arise. The SAIL is wholeheartedly cooperating with the CBI.

Secondly, the hon. Member pointed out regarding the theft and said that due to theft, there is a huge loss in the Bokaro Steel Plant. I would like to give detailed facts and figures for the last five years. In 1992, 29 cases of theft were reported and material worth Rs. 2,55,080 was stolen. I am happy to inform that hundred per cent recovery has been made. In 1993, there were 45 theft cases and the total cost of material stolen was Rs. 6,03,476 and hundred per cent has already been recovered by the Bokaro Steel Plant. In 1994, there were 36 cases and the cost of material stolen was Rs. 4,06,896, out of which material worth Rs. 1,71,896 has already been recovered.

In 1995, there were 49 cases and the total money involved was Rs.3,44,000/- out of which Rs.2,41,000/- has already been recovered.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RITA VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, one minutes is still there. My second supplementary is that budget for Bokaro was proposed to be raised upto Rs.1,100 crore for the purpose of modernisation but it has been raised to Rs.1,625 crore. Theft, corruption and some scam is suspected in this matter. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any CBI inquiry will be conducted in all the contracts granted for modernisation of Bokaro Steel Plants, so that the question of suspected theft, scam and corruption could be solved.

[*English*]

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, there will be no compromise with corruption and I am really thankful to the hon. Member for giving me a very good suggestion. The process of modernisation is going on and it is due to be completed in July, 1997. If there is any specific allegation from the hon. Member, I would like to give an assurance that I would do accordingly.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Turnover of SAIL Units

*185. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total turnover of the SAIL units in the country during 1996-97;

(b) whether the cost of production is increasing due to hike in coal prices;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken to contain the losses in SAIL units;

(e) whether the SAIL is planning to install captive coal mines for consumption of coal; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Total turnover of SAIL units in the country for financial year 1996-97 will be known only after the close of the financial year.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The cost of production of Saleable Steel is increasing due to hike in the coal prices. Increase in prices of coking coal by 15% and 12% w.e.f. 1.4.1996 and 2.10.1996 respectively is estimated to have an impact of Rs.410 crores on an annualised basis.

(d) SAIL has taken various steps to improve its profitability, which include modernisation and technoligical upgradation of its plants; improved quality product-mix and products in line with market requirement; improving techno-economic factors i.e. reduction in coke rate, energy consumption, metalic input, improvement in yield; improving availability of equipment through effective maintenance; strict control and reduction in cost of production etc.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. SAIL has decided to undertake captive mining of coal to augment indigenous coking coal availability. It has been allocated Tasra Block in Jharia Coalfield for captive mining. Steps for completing the necessary formalities have been initiated by SAIL.

Setting up of Radio/TV Stations by Private Sector

*186. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to permit private sector to set up Radio and TV Stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) The issue of permitting private sector to set up Radio and TV Stations is related to the question of permitting private broadcasting from within the country. This issue will be addressed in the proposed broadcasting bill which is likely to be introduced during the current session of Parliament.

Pending Projects

*187. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of pending projects of new rail lines and other works under Eastern Railway alongwith the reasons for their pendency;

(b) the original dates for their completion and the cost and time over-run in each project; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to complete these projects expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c)

Sr. No.	Name of Project	Kms	Reasons for Pendency	Original date of completion	Cost over run on date	Time over run as per present target	Steps being taken to complete the project expeditiously
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	New Line						
1.	Laxmikantpur Namkhana	47	Delay in land acquisition	31.3.95 for Laxmikantpur to Kashinagar (Ph-I) TD not fixed for Ph.II beyond Kashinagar.	31 Cr.	2 yrs 09 months	Line completed between Laxmikantpur and Nischintpur (23 Kms) 8 Kms from Nischintpur to Kashinagar would be opened by Dec'97 State Govt is being persued to acquire balance land. Adequate funds have been provided.
2.	Mandarhill to Rampur-hat via Dumka	130	Final location survey is in progress.	Not yet fixed.	Nil	Nil	Rly has been asked to prepare land acquisition plans and papers after completing Final Location Survey on priority.
	Doubling						
3.	Sahibganj link cabin-New Farakka-Malda Town	49.57	Delay in removal of encroachments by State Govt. and damage to new embankment due to floods in 1995.	31.12.93	Rs.24 cr.	5 yrs.	28.61 km has been completed. State Govt has started removal of encroachments in phases and work has started, Adequate funds have been provided. The work is now targetted for completion in Dec'98.